the mete was redy: and the tyme of the day was come to go to dyner/ the fader cam wt a baspyn and an ewyr. and the moder with a towel saynge syr. Syr alle thynge is redy/ please it you to wasshe: and whan the kynge salve that: he smyled and said to him self Nowe is the song of the nygh tyngale true. for my fader and my moder shulde gladely fulfille as I sayde: if I my selfe wold ther/ to consente and suffre theym. But he wolde nat suffre theym to doo him that seruyce: sa ynge/ youre age is to be honoured: and ther fore I wol nat of it. and called vnto hym one of his seruauntes the whych served him therof. Than sayde the knyght/ ye wol nat suffre vs to do it to oure honoure: for we are nat worthy therto. The kynge sayd. Haue nat I saide that for the honoure of youre a/ ge I forbere it: whan the kynge was set at the table. he set his moder on the right hand of him/ and his fader on his lefte syde. and they asmoche as they myght beheelde his vy sage and countenaunce. The dyner ended

Cthe kynge entred in to a chambre / and

C

O.2.13

made the knyght with his lady to coome in to him: and commaunded al other to a voi de and go oute/ and when they were thus a/ lone: the kynge saide vnto theym. haue ye no childrey. They answeryd we haue neyther sonne ne dought̃er. And the kynge said had ye neuer none. The knyght answered We haue had one sonne: but he is long a go dede. The kynge asked of what dethe dyed he. The knyght sayd: a natural deth. Tho sayde the kinge. if I may otherwise knowe that he dyed. thay are ye founde with a de= faute. Tho asked the knight. My lorde Wherfore inquere ye thus after oure sonne: The kynge answered. that do I nat with= oute cause/ and therfore I wolle knowe of What dethe he dyed: and if ye wolle nat tell me I shal cause you to dye a shameful deth When they herde that they fil to ground vp on ther knees afore him and asked him mer cy and forgeuenes of theyr kyues. The kyn ge wold nat suffre them to knele/ but short ly toke theym and sayde. To that intente cam I nat to youre house to ete your brede

and to betraye you / but say me the trouthe
& ye shalbe saued. for it is yeuen me to vn-
derstande that ye haue put him to deth. & if
that come in iugement ye muste dye a sha-
meful dethe. Than saide the kynght. lorde
pardone me of my lyse & I shalle shewe you
the betraye trouthe. The kynge sayde: fere
nat / for I shal do you no harme. Tho say
de he. Soueraygne lorde we hadde a sonne
only that was wyse and lettryd and rygh-
well vnderstande. And vpon a tyme as he
stode afore vs & serued at the table. There
cam a nygh tingale that right swetly sange
whoos songe he began to interprete & telle
vs what it ment / and sayde. This bird syn /
geth that I shal be come so grete and migh-
ty a lorde that it shalbe to youre honoure &
aduaunsement in suche wyse: that ye my fader
shalbe glad to holde the basyn withe water
to wasshe in myn handes. and my moder ye
towel if I wolde suffre it. And whan I herd
that: I was sore meuyd and tohe and caste
him into the see for to drowne. Tho sayde
the kynge: What euyl might haue come to

pou / if he had beey made so greate & myghty / me thynketh it shulde haue bey pour honoure and prousyt. The kynyght saide lord it was no resoy but a woodnesse. The kyng answered: that was a grete folisshnes of pou that ye wolde doo ayenste the ordenaūce and wyl of god. But nowe ye shal knowe for trouth that I am youre soy that ye cast into the see / and god of hys greate mercy & goodnesse hathe saued me: and by his grace hath brought me to this state and dignyte. And the fader and moder herynge that withe fere and iope replenysshed fyll flat to the grounde: whom he frendly and louyng/ ly toke vp / saynge feare nat: butt rather be glad and iopous / for ye shal no thyng suffre / but my exaltacion shalbe youre glorye and iope and prousyte for euyr / and kyste bothe his fader and moder wythe greate iop and gladnesse. Tho began the moder to wepe. Than saide the kyg Wepe nat / but be of goode confortе and chere. for iy my realme shal ye be taken and honoured aboue me durynge my lyfe: iy al thynges. and toke